

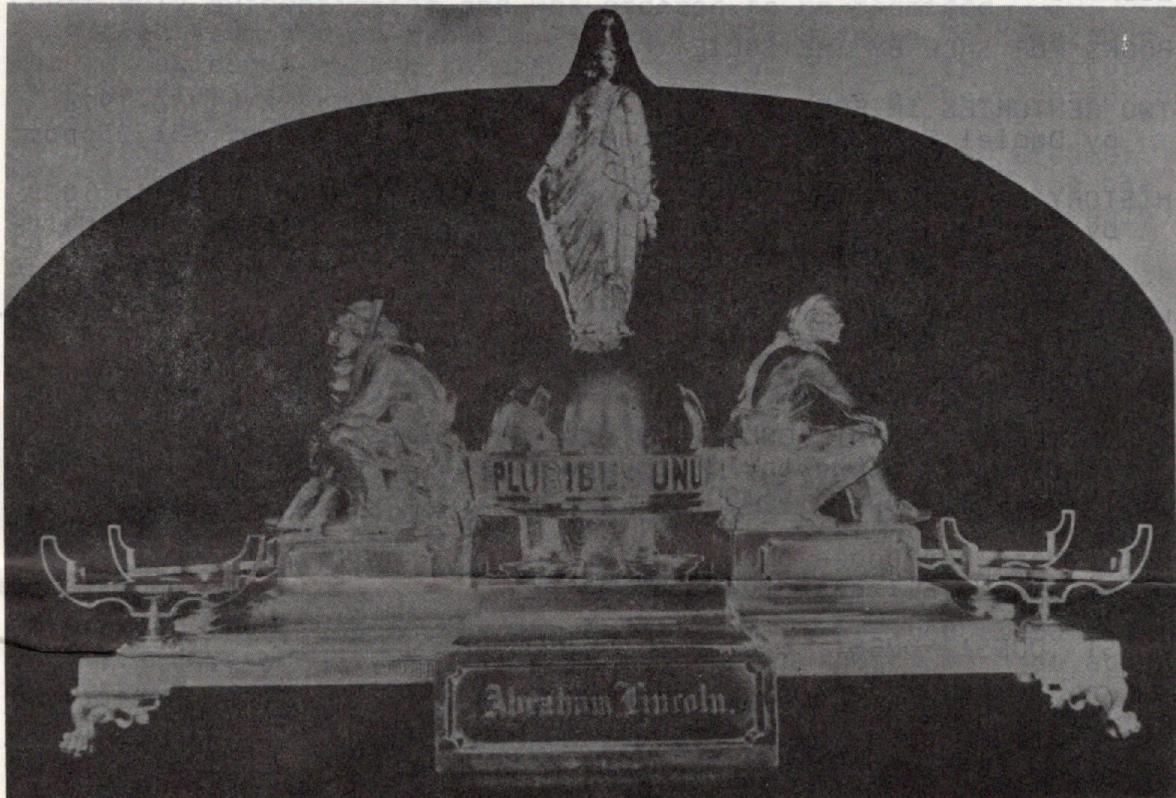
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Bits and Pieces of *Hardin County History* Published by the *Hardin County Historical Society*

Vol. VII No. 1

Robert Beimdick, Editor

Winter 1986



CHARLES D. POSTON PRESENTED TO
PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN A SILVER INKSTAND

By R. Gerald McMurtry

Shortly after President Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural, he was presented with a silver inkstand by Charles D. Poston, Arizona's Territorial Representative to the Thirty-eighth Congress of the United States. It must have been a disappointment to Poston to learn that the President was not in his office to receive the gift. Lincoln was enjoying a carriage ride through the streets of Washington when Congressman Poston made his call.

Poston was elected to Congress by the first territorial election in Arizona in 1864.¹ He served a short and uneventful term from December 5, 1864, to March 3, 1865. Enroute to the Capitol from Arizona, he may have visited Tiffany & Company in New York City to place an order for the inkstand. He had brought with him 1,500 ounces of the purest Arizona silver from the Santa Rita Mountains.² He had estimated that 400 ounces of silver would be necessary for the large object he would propose. (Continued on page 5.)

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DUES! DUES! DUES!

Your 1986 dues are now payable. The dues are \$8.00 per member per year. Please remit the same to Mrs. June Thornberry, 128 N. Main St., Elizabethtown, KY 42701

QUERY

HOWARD, DUCKWORTH, LINCOLN
 Does anyone know where my ancestors, RICHARD HOWARD and his wife MARY DUCKWORTH came from and any other information on them. They were neighbors of THOMAS LINCOLN. Also origin of WILLIAM DUCKWORTH and son ELIJAH DUCKWORTH (MARY DUCKWORTH'S father). WILLIAM DUCKWORTH and ELIJAH were owners for a time (ca. 1822-1837) of part of the Lincoln Memorial Birthplace Site, south of Hodgenville, KY. William A. Miller, 3150 Iris Ave., Apt. 302, Boulder, Colo. 80301

TIDBIT

Mrs. Henry Beeler of Akers Valley was buried from St. Ignatius Church, April 17, 1903. The Beeler home was always open to the pastor of St. Elizabeth and St. Ignatius Churches. Rev. J. Divine constituted the services. Source-Files of the Loretto Motherhouse, Nerinx, KY

COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KY. 1797 (4 July)

At a Court held for Hardin County on Tuesday the 4th day of July 1797 Present Robert Hodgins Stephen Rawlings & George Helm Gent Justices

A deed from George Pope to Henry Bright was Exhibited in Court duly authenticated & was ordered to be recorded

A deed from George Pope to Greenbury Magers was produced in Court duly authenticated and was ordered to be recorded

A deed from Andrew Hynes & Elizabeth his wife to John Warford was acknowledged by the said Andrew and was ordered to be recorded

Same from Joseph Greenwalt to Isom Enlow duly authenticated and ordered to record

On the motion of Andrew Hynes who together with John Creamer his security Entered into and acknowledged their bond as the Law directs a ferry is Established across the Rolling fork agreeably to an Act of Assembly in that Case made and provided the said Andrew being proprietor of the Land on both sides of the River is appointed ferry keeper and it is ordered that he constantly keep one good sufficient Boat for the Transporting foot and horse passengers and two good hands to man said boat and that he be allowed at the rate of six pence Horse d^o per man & horse four pence half penny per single man for Carriages and meat Cattle Agreeably to the said recited act

Stephen Cleaver produced a nomination from Charles Helm Gentleman Surveyor appointing him his Deputy Ordered that Benjamin Helm & Robert Barnet be appointed to Examine into his Capacity a report being made and returned and the said Cleaver found duly Qualified took the Oath of a Surveyor

Ordered that Ignatius Pegman Robert Mosly Christopher Jackson and Jefse Cravens or any three of them being first Sworn do appraise in Current money the Estate of Joseph Barnet Dec^d and return a true and perfect Inventory thereof to the Court

On the motion of Andrew Hynes Esq who together with Benjamin Helm his security entered into and acknowledged their bond Conditioned agreeably to an Act of Assembly vesting the County Courts with power to Establish towns &c. whereas thirty acres of Land the property of the said Andrew has been Laid off into Town Lots and the publick buildings for the County of Hardin Erected thereon Agreeably to plan Laid down and Recorded in the Clerks Office it is Considered by the Court that the said Town so Laid off be Established and known by the name of Elizabeth Town

And that the following persons be appointed Trustees to said Town (to wit) Robert Hodgins Benjamin Helm Armsted Churchill John Vertrees Stephen Rawlings Samuel Haycraft Isaac Morrison & James Crutcher

A deed from Henry Guntreman to John Farmer was proved by the Oaths of John Paul Robert Hodgins & Harrison Taylor Subscribing Witneses thereto and was ordered to be recorded

A deed from William Lee to Benjamin Johnson was proved by the Oath of John Paul a witnes thereto and ordered to lay for further proof

Robert Barnet produced a nomination from Charles Helm Gent Surveyor being before examined found qualified took the Oath of a Surveyor

Ordered that the Tavern rates continue as they were
 Andrew Hynes produced a nomination from Charles Helm Gent Surveyor and thereupon took the Oath of a Surveyor

A deed from Zepheniah Bell & Sophia his wife to Calvin Merry was proved by the Oaths of John Paul Robert Hodgkin and Samuel May Subscribing Witnefses thereto & was ordered to be recorded

A deed from William Lee to Benjamin Johnson was proved by the Oath of John Paul and Charles Morgan and was ordered to Lay for further proof

On the application of Rolly Colston by William McClung his Attorney it is ordered that the Clerk of this Court do Ifsue his Warrant directed to Benjamin Helm and Benjamin Huff Gent who are hereby appointed Commifsoners agreeably to an Act of Afsembly intituled an act to afscertain the boundaries of Land and for other purposes requiring them or any two of them to attend the said Rolly to the Beginning or any Special place called for in an Entry of 5000 acres made in the name of the said Rolly Colston on the Ohio at the little Yellow Banks dated the 22nd of May 1790 then and there to Take on oath the Depositions of such persons as may be brought forward by the parties and to do such other things as by the said recited act may be deemed necefsary

Pursuant to an order of our last Court for leting out the repair- ing of the Courthouse Erecting Stocks &c sold to Stephen Rawlings at £24 also the building the publick Jail agreeably to the plan set forth was sold to said Rawlings at £130 the work to be completed on or before the first day of January next whereupon the said Stephen Rawlings together with Isaac Morrison & Christopher Bush his securities entered into and Acknowledged their bond for the Completion of said Work

A deed from John McMahan to Edward Dorsey was produced in Court duly authenticated & was ordered to be recorded

Ordered that John Paul Clerk of this Court be allowed £4-15 for Examining the Commifsoners books for the year 1796 and that the Sheriff pay the same

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Court in Course

Robt Hodgkin

TIDBIT-POSTMASTERS--EAST VIEW, KY

East View Post Office was established April 6, 1871. The following is a list of the postmasters and their date of installation:

Howsan Duncan (1871)	Joel D. Barnes (1905)
Samuel Franklin (1874)	Abraham Goldberg (1906)
Robert D. Stewart (1878)	Moses S. Ragland (1910)
John N. Akers (1885)	Leta M. Ragland (1912)
Robert D. Stewart (1889)	John A. Hall (1914)
David A. Hilton (1892)	Letie B. Hall (1915)
Wesley H. Oliver (1894)	Miona J. Jennings (1936)
Richard L. Payne (1895)	Louise Johnson (1968)
Robert D. Stewart (1897)	

INKSTAND Continued

However, only 78 ounces of the silver was used in the manufacture of the inkstand. Tiffany's charge for the manufacture for the art object was \$862, although another authority has given the cost at \$700.³

In the center of the inkstand above the double inkwells rises a small facsimile of the dome of the United States Capitol surmounted by the Goddess of Liberty, a replica of the statue designed in Italy by Thomas Crawford. The dome lifts off and becomes a silver call-bell. The Capitol dome is flanked on one side by a finely executed statuette of a Comanche Indian and on the other side by a figure of the same size representing Congressman Poston in pioneer costume with rifle in hand.

The front of the inkstand bears the President's name in large engraved letters and on the opposite face of the inkstand, the side that a visitor would first see on approaching the President's desk and beneath a secret compartment operated by springs, is the inscription: "From Charles D. Poston Arizona-1865."

Poston undoubtedly hoped to present the silver art object to President Lincoln while he Poston was still a member of Congress, however, his plan was delayed due to the manufacturer's inability to finish the item on schedule. On the other hand, Lincoln was privileged to use the inkstand and its unique call-bell for only a month. He was assassinated just 37 days after his second inauguration.

In 1887 when Poston went to Chicago promoting a mining venture in Mexico, he wondered what had become of the present he gave the sixteenth President. Upon calling on Robert Todd Lincoln, he discovered that the President's son remembered that the inkstand had been stored in a vault after his father's assassination. He allowed Poston to have it polished and photographed. On many occasions it has been placed on exhibit by both the Library of Congress and state historical societies in Arizona. With the death of Robert Lincoln on July 26, 1926, the inkstand became the property of his daughter, Mrs. Charles Isham, who presented it to the Library of Congress in 1937.

Charles D. Poston, a native of Elizabethtown, made such a noteworthy contribution to the development of the natural resources of Arizona and was so successful in bringing about organized government to that territory that he is today remembered by the people of that state as the "Father of Arizona."

Poston was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, on April 20, 1825, the son of a farmer and one-time editor of an Elizabethtown newspaper called THE WESTERN SENTINEL. Apparently he received a good education for that time and place, while attending Robert Hewitt's school. In 1837 at the age of twelve, he was employed in the Hardin County Court Clerk's Office under Samuel Haycraft, Jr. Undoubtedly he became acquainted with Haycraft's third daughter Margaret during the six year period he worked for her father. In 1843 Poston began working as a deputy clerk in Nashville, Tennessee office of the supreme court of that state. Five years later in September, 1848, he married the daughter of the Elizabethtown historian, Samuel Haycraft, Jr.

After being involved in a few local business adventures, Poston became restless, craved riches, adventure, caught the gold fever and moved to California. He engaged in mining and in promoting and organizing mining companies both in the western states and in Mexico. Eventually Poston's interests shifted from California to Arizona Territory and in 1854 with a party of mining explorers, he left San Francisco in search of mineral wealth in the Arizona area. The party suffered shipwreck in the Gulf of California. Sometimes his activities placed him in great danger but he always seems to overcome adversity. Nevertheless, some of his mining operations were exceedingly successful while some were not so profitable.

With the advent of the Civil War, Poston was a Union sympathizer, even though the Arizona Territory for a brief period was under Confederate control. He was among the first to advocate territorial status for Arizona. Eventually the Union Army seized control of the area and invoked martial law. In 1862 Congress passed the law creating the Arizona Territory. Lincoln signed the bill on February 24, 1863, and a civil government was set up to handle the affairs of the territory.⁴ Poston's role in the civil government was that of Indian agent. These early endeavours lead to his election as the first Arizona delegate to Congress in July, 1864.

In the summer of 1867, Poston made a tour of Europe and in December of that year, he returned to Elizabethtown and at the residence of Samuel Haycraft he delivered a lecture describing his travel abroad and the nations that he had visited. The lecture was attended by "A company of select ladies and gentlemen, his old friends and relations." Eventually the lecture was published with the title "Europe in the Summer Time" by C. D. Poston.⁵

In late 1868 or early 1869, Poston was appointed an agent of the Federal Government to conduct certain official business with India, China, and Egypt, as well as several countries of Europe. Despite his many accomplishments in Arizona, his election and short career as a Congressman and as a federal agent visiting foreign governments, Poston was likely best remembered by his friends and admirers in Elizabethtown as the first native of Hardin County to make a trip around the world.

FOOTNOTES

1. An excellent biographical sketch of Charles D. Poston, "The Father of Arizona" appears in Daniel E. McClure, Jr.'s TWO CENTURIES IN ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, pages 298-300.
2. Bert Fireman, "Lincoln's Inkstand Comes to Arizona". Feb. 14, 1960, Newspaper clipping. Name of paper unknown.
3. "A Relic of Abraham Lincoln". CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Tuesday, July 12, 1887.
4. Arizona Territory was admitted as the 48th state on February 14, 1912.
5. Samuel Haycraft, A HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS, pages 158-160.

WILL OF JACOB VANMETRE 1798 Hardin County Will Book A

In the Name of God Amen I Jacob VanMetre being infirmly in health but of sound and perfect mind calling to mind the mortality of the Body and that is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testement and first of all I give and recommend my soul to the hands of Almighty God that gave it and my Body to be buried in a decent and a Christian like manner at the descretion of my Executors Nothing doubting but the General resurrection I shall receive again by the mighty God that gave it and as touching Such Worldly affairs where with it pleased God to bless me with I give and dispose of in the following manner (That is to say) I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Letty VanMetre all and singular my Household furniture to enjoyed and dispose of at her descretion and at her death if any part thereof should be remaining I make no doubt but as she has divided her affections amongst her Children but she will Equally divide the residue of her Legacy with them as she thinks they Severally Stand in need I also allow my said wife Letty the following precious legacies to be enjoyed by her at her descretion during her natural lifetime (VIZ) the dwelling house and garden adjoining the same which I now occupy also one young mare called Pole with her Saddle and bridle for her proper use and behoof together with one half the orchard and Medow and Cleared Farming Land of which she is to have the benefit of one half of the production and she is to support and assist in labour and materials in keeping the said farm in repair and providing the said production and I do further allow her to have one half of the benefits of the Grist Mill during her life and to be at an Equal Existence together with all buildings and appurtinances belonging to said farm in keeping the same in repair also I give and bequeath unto my wife Letty one Equal third part of all remainder of my personal Estate during her life after all my Just debts are paid and after her death the remaining part of her third to be distributed amongst my children as she may think most Expedient I also allow my wife Letty the full benefit of all my Negroes during her life (To Wit) Daniel Mark Isaac Celilah but if Either or any of them before mentioned should arrive to the age of Thirty Years old before the death of my wife Each or Either of them shall be wholly set free from Servitude without serving any person whatsoever and if my wife should depart this life before the arise to the age of thirty it is my Will that they then be set free from servitude Also it is my will that the other two thirds of my personal Estate I allow to be Equally divided amongst my Children such as has not received their Legacy before my death and if any of my legatees should be dead be it understood that their heirs shall receive it I also leave to my son Jacob the plantation on which I now live with whatsoever Land I may obtain adjoining the said plantation Except that part which I have given to my son John VanMetre which will appear from agreement line to be bounded as followeth to begin at the lower end of a plum first above the Mill dam and to run across the whole of the three surveys on the same direction of the upper line which is to be for his use and his heirs forever the reserve of my Plantation and whatever Lands shall be remaining together with all and singular appurtinances together with one half the Grist Mill and after the death of my wife Letty the whole of the Mill to be for the use and behoof of my son Jacob and his heirs forever by his paying unto the other Legatees after the death of my wife one half of the Valuation

WILL OF JACOB VANMETRE 1798 Hardin County Will Book A

In the Name of God Amen I Jacob VanMetre being infirmly in health but of sound and perfect mind calling to mind the mortality of the Body and that is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testement and first of all I give and recommend my soul to the hands of Almighty God that gave it and my Body to be buried in a decent and a Christian like manner at the descretion of my Executors Nothing doubting but the General resurrection I shall receive again by the mighty God that gave it and as touching Such Worldly affairs where with it pleased God to bless me with I give and dispose of in the following manner (That is to say) I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Letty VanMetre all and singular my Household furniture to enjoyed and dispose of at her descretion and at her death if any part thereof should be remaining I make no doubt but as she has divided her affections amongst her Children but she will Equally divide the residue of her Legacy with them as she thinks they Severally Stand in need I also allow my said wife Letty the following precious legacies to be enjoyed by her at her descretion during her natural lifetime (VIZ) the dwelling house and garden adjoining the same which I now occupy also one young mare called Pole with her Saddle and bridle for her proper use and behoof together with one half the orchard and Medow and Cleared Farming Land of which she is to have the benefit of one half of the production and she is to support and assist in labour and materials in keeping the said farm in repair and providing the said production and I do further allow her to have one half of the benefits of the Grist Mill during her life and to be at an Equal Existence together with all buildings and appurtinances belonging to said farm in keeping the same in repair also I give and bequeath unto my wife Letty one Equal third part of all remainder of my personal Estate during her life after all my Just debts are paid and after her death the remaining part of her third to be distributed amongst my children as she may think most Expedient I also allow my wife Letty the full benefit of all my Negroes during her life (To Wit) Daniel Mark Isaac Celilah but if Either or any of them before mentioned should arrive to the age of Thirty Years old before the death of my wife Each or Either of them shall be wholly set free from Servitude without serving any person whatsoever and if my wife should depart this life before the arise to the age of thirty it is my Will that they then be set free from servitude Also it is my will that the other two thirds of my personal Estate I allow to be Equally divided amongst my Children such as has not received their Legacy before my death and if any of my legatees should be dead be it understood that their heirs shall receive it I also leave to my son Jacob the plantation on which I now live with whatsoever Land I may obtain adjoining the said plantation Except that part which I have given to my son John VanMetre which will appear from agreement line to be bounded as followeth to begin at the lower end of a plum first above the Mill dam and to run across the whole of the three surveys on the same direction of the upper line which is to be for his use and his heirs forever the reserve of my Plantation and whatever Lands shall be remaining together with all and singular appurtinances together with one half the Grist Mill and after the death of my wife Letty the whole of the Mill to be for the use and behoof of my son Jacob and his heirs forever by his paying unto the other Legatees after the death of my wife one half of the Valuation

ular appurtinances together with one half the Grist Mill and after the death of my wife Letty the whole of the Mill to be for the use and behoof of my son Jacob and his heirs forever by his paying unto the other Legatees after the death of my wife one half of the Valuation of the Mill the same to Valued by persons chosen by the Legatees that is to say the Value of building the same Also the residue of my land I leave and bequeath unto my sons Isaac and John to be Equally divided in quantity and quality Except one hundred and fifty acres unto Samuel Haycraft as a Compensation for a Legation of Land of four hundred acres the said 150 acres to be laid off for said Haycraft upon the Lower End of a five hundred acre survey only if the same shall be procured from other Claims if not where the Legatees shall agree also the same number of acres that my son John has surveyed to him off of my Plantation tract as before mentioned to be laid off for the use of my son Jacob and his heirs for ever the whole of the residue of my Lands that shall be procured after the foregoing Exceptions to be Equally divided between my sons Isaac & John and their heirs for ever Exceptions What Land is taken and laid off for my son Jacob on Caney is to be reduced from the lands to be divided for my son John before a Dividend takes place between the Legatees also it is my will that my son Abrahams Heirs do receive three pounds each for their use and behoof to wit Catherine Sarah Letty & Elizabeth also that my Daughter Peggy Receive five pounds and also twelve pounds exclusive of the Division for a Compensation I do also appoint my son Jacob Van Metre and Samuel Haycraft and my son Isaac to be my sole Executors to see to the proper distribution of this my last will and Testament and I do hereby Revoke all others and Ratify and confirm this my last will and Testament In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 11th day of November 1798

Jacob Van Metre

TIDBIT-From LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS OR The Trial of Faith by Mrs. Mary L. Brock, Louisville, Ky., published by the author, 1885

"...The stream on whose banks they stand, throwing their dark shades far out over the crystal ripple, has a sad Indian story connected with its name.

It is said that in the early days of the country a company of white men camped upon the knoll near the banks of the then nameless river, leaving one of the company, a Mr. Lynn, to guard the camp; the others started forth to hunt the buffalo, deer, and antelope, which then abounded in that region. While they were absent, the Indians captured Mr. Lynn, and carried him away with all the camp equipage. On returning at night, the men exclaimed, 'Here is the knoll, but no Lynn!' This expression gave rise to the name of the river, 'Nolin.'" Contributed by Perry Hagan, Glendale, Ky.

THOMAS FAMILY BAPTISMS

(The following information was provided by a friend. All the baptisms took place at St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, Hardin County, Kentucky. The baptisms are grouped by family.)

THOMAS, CHARLES ENOS & MARGARET BROWN

Thomas, Charles Enos, son of (not given), age about 41 yrs.,
 bap. May 26, 1850 on deathbed. Spon. Charles Cecil.
 Thomas, Lydia Ann, dau. of Enos Thomas & Margaret Brown, age
 11 yrs., bap. May 3, 1851. Spon. Teresa Brown.
 Thomas, Charles Enos, son of Enos Thomas & Margaret, b. Oct. 7,
 1850, bap. Jan. 5, 1851. Spon. Teresa A. Brown.

THOMAS, ELIAS & ELIZABETH HAGAN

Thomas, Margaret Jane, dau. of Elias Thomas & Elizabeth Hagan,
 b. Oct 8, 1844, bap. Dec 1, 1844. Spon. Rebecca Thomas.
 Thomas, Rebecca, dau of Elias Thomas & Elizabeth, b(not given),
 bap Feb 4, 1849. Spon. Rebecca Thomas.
 Thomas, Martha Ellen, dau of Elias Thomas & Elizabeth Hagan,
 b Oct 22, 1851, bap Dec 7, 1851. Spon. Martha Hagan
 Thomas, William R, son of Elias Thomas & Elizabeth, b (not given)
 bap June 5, 1853. Spon. Rosella Hagan.
 Thomas, Mary Elizabeth, dau of Elias Thomas & Elizabeth, b (not
 given), bap Apr 1, 1855. Spon. Ann Thomas.
 Thomas, Henry Elias, son of Elias Thomas & Elizabeth, b (not
 given), bap. Mar 1, 1857. Spon. Rebecca Thomas.
 Thomas, Martha Ellen, dau of Elias Thomas & Elizabeth, b (not
 given), bap Apr 3, 1859. Spon. Elizabeth C. Riney.
 Thomas, Sarah Rose, dau of Elias Thomas & Elizabeth, b (not
 given), Mar 31, 1861. Spon. Nancy Haywood.
 Thomas, Elry (Hilary?) Sylvester, son of Elias Thomas &
 Elizabeth, b (not given), bap Dec 25, 1862. Spon. Eliz-
 abeth Riney.
 Thomas, Virginia, dau of Elias Thomas & Elizabeth, b (not given)
 bap Feb 4, 1865. Spon. Margaret E. Riney.

THOMAS, ELIJAH T. & CASSANDRA

Thomas, Francis marion, son of Elijah Thomas & Cassandra, b (not
 given), bap Nov 7, 1852. Spon. Catharine Jones.
 Thomas, mary Amitha(?), dau of Elijah T. Thomas & Cassandra,
 b (not given), who died in Indiana, age 8 yrs., bap Mar 4,
 1866. Spon. Amitha(?) Jones.

THOMAS, ELIJAH T. & HARRIET FRANCES

Thomas, James William, son of Elijah T. Thomas & Harriet Frances,
 b (not given), bap Sep 7, 1856. Spon. Emily Jones.

THOMAS, JACK (John) & REBECCA DURBIN (md. Jan 28, 1820, Hardin Co.)

Thomas, Christopher, son of John Thomas & Rebecca, b Aug 15, 1830,
 bap Aug 22, 1830. Spon. Margaret Durbin.
 Thomas, Rebecca Ann, dau of Jack Thomas & Rebecca, b in June 1837,
 bap Aug 6, 1837. Spon. Mary Cole.
 Thomas, Joseph, son of John Thomas & Rebecca, b (not given),
 bap Mar 31, 1839. Spon. Ann Durbin.

